



CHADWYCK-HEALEY

01793

1994/12/16

© 1994 Chadwyck-Healey Ltd. All rights reserved. Registered in England No. 1143593 at 125 London Wall, London EC2C 5NQ. Tel: 0117 9237589
Telex: 833422 CHADWYK GBR. VAT Reg. No. 733 3347 001

ALEXANDRIA



CAMBRIDGE



MADRID



PARIS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

Date Printed: 09/11/1997 DOC_NUMBER: 94BEIJIN56982
fileName : .../t941284/aaaamrmz.tel

CHANNEL: n/a

1

(E3)

PTQ6147

R

CONFIDENTIAL

PTQ6147

PAGE 01 BEIJIN 56982 161132Z
ACTION EAP-01

INFO LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	OASY-00
DODE-00	EB-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	L-01
ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-01	PRS-01	P-01
SP-00	SR-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	USIE-00
PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/055W			
-----9371F8 161134Z /38						

O 161133Z DEC 94

FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7046 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO AMCONSUL SHANGHAI

RELEASE DECLASSIFY

Date: 2/4/98

AMCONSUL SHENYANG

EXCISE DECLASSIFY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

DENY EO Citations

AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU

IN PART

AMCONSUL CHENGDU

FOIA Exemptions _____ TS authority to

PA Exemptions _____ CLASSIFY as () S or () C Sec. _____

DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C

CONFIDENTIAL BEIJING 056982

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PHUM, CH

SUBJECT: "BEIJING 15" SENTENCES REPORTEDLY HANDED DOWN

REF: (A) 93 BEIJING 40186, (B) BEIJING 39968

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. (LOU) SUMMARY. SENTENCES IN THE CASE OF THE "BEIJING 15," TRIED IN JULY FOR FORMING A "COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY GROUP," WERE REPORTEDLY HANDED DOWN BY A BEIJING COURT ON CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

CHANNEL: n/a

1

Date Printed: 09/11/1997 DOC_NUMBER: F4471056582
fileName : .../t941284/aaaamrmz.tel

PAGE 02

BEIJIN 56982 161132Z

DECEMBER 16. SENTENCES RANGED FROM 20 TO FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT, WHILE CHARGES WERE DROPPED AGAINST FIVE DEFENDANTS AND ONE WAS SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS PROBATION. MFA HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION OFFICIALS PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE REPORT AND AGREED IF THEY RECEIVED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO PROVIDE IT TO THE EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.

3. (U) THE BEIJING INTERMEDIATE COURT REPORTEDLY RULED ON THE CASES OF 15 DISSIDENTS, KNOWN AS THE "BEIJING 15" (A SIXTEENTH DEFENDANT WAS DROPPED FROM THE CASE FOR MEDICAL REASONS, REF A) ON DECEMBER 16. THE DEFENDANTS WERE TRIED IN JULY. EARLIER PRESS REPORTS INDICATING SENTENCES HAD BEEN HANDED DOWN IN AUGUST WERE DENIED BY THE LOCAL COURT (REF B). ACCORDING TO REUTERS, HU SHIGEN WAS SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS FOR "HEADING A COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY GROUP" AND "COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY PROPAGANDA AND INCITEMENT;" KANG YUCHUN 17 YEARS, LIU JINGSHENG 15, AND WANG GUOQI 11 ON SIMILAR CHARGES. FOUR DEFENDANTS CHARGED WITH PARTICIPATING IN A COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY GROUP AND COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY PROPAGANDA AND INCITEMENT WERE SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS, ANOTHER HAS SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS AND ONE HAS PLACED "UNDER SUPERVISION" FOR TWO YEARS. CHARGES WERE REPORTEDLY DROPPED AGAINST THE OTHER FIVE DEFENDANTS. THE DEFENDANTS WERE ARRESTED FOR ALLEGEDLY FORMING THREE DISSIDENT GROUPS THAT PLANNED TO COMMEMORATE THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1989 TIANANMEN INCIDENT.

4. (LOU) WHEN ASKED TO CONFIRM THE PRESS REPORT, MFA HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION CHIEF LI BAODONG AGREED TO LOOK

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIJIN 56982 161132Z
INTO THE MATTER AND PROMISED TO INFORM THE EMBASSY IF HE ACQUIRED ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. EMBASSY IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO RECEIVE CONFIRMATION FROM THE BEIJING INTERMEDIATE COURT.

5. (C) COMMENT: INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE "BEIJING 15" CERTAINLY PLAYED A ROLE IN HANDLING OF THESE

CONFIDENTIAL

Date Printed: 09/11/1997 DOC_NUMBER: 64BEIJIN56982 CHANNEL: n/a 1
fileName : .../t941284/aaaamrmz.tel

UNCLASSIFIED

CASES. THE COURT TOOK AN UNUSUALLY LONG TIME TO DELIVER ITS VERDICT AFTER THE TRIAL ENDED IN JULY. CHINESE LEADERS' PRE-OCCUPATION WITH MAINTAINING STABILITY MAY ACCOUNT FOR THE SEVERITY OF SEVERAL OF THE SENTENCES. DESPITE THIS, CHARGES WERE DROPPED AGAINST FIVE DEFENDANTS, AN OUTCOME RARE IN CASES INVOLVING COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY CHARGES.

6. (U) SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE FOLLOWS:

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT 9 DISSIDENT HAVE BEEN GIVEN LENGTHY SENTENCES FOR COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY CRIMES IN BEIJING?

A. WE ARE AWARE OF THIS REPORT. THE UNITED STATES HAS REPEATEDLY AFFIRMED TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ITS POSITION THAT FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ASSOCIATION ARE AMONG THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS WHICH ALL NATIONS SHOULD OBSERVE. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT FAIR AND OPEN TRIALS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR SAFEGUARDING THESE AND OTHER RIGHTS. ROY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED